



OUR PANAGIA OF DECANI

The Synaxis of the Holy New Martyrs of Serbia Whom the Holy Church Celebrates on August 30

The Holy New Martyrs of Serbia During the Second World War (1939-1945), the Ustashi government of Roman Catholic Croatia, in alliance with the Nazi Government of Germany, and with the approval and support of the papal hierarchy, undertook an unspeakably bitter persecution of the Orthodox Serbian people with the aim either of converting them to Papism, or driving them away, or killing them. The Orthodox Serbs who would not accept Papism were put into extermination camps; some were tortured inhumanely by knifing; some were found with their eyes put out, their noses and ears cut off, and fires having been lighted upon their chests; whole villages were slaughtered, the children being impaled on stakes; unborn babes were slain in their mothers' wombs; many perished in camps from hunger and sickness; many thousands were herded like beasts and burned in their churches, which were destroyed with their monasteries and homes. Over 700,000 Serbian Orthodox Christians suffered cruel

martyrdom during this period, including many of the clergy and defenseless women and children.

Text: *The Great Horologion* © 1997 The Holy Transfiguration Monastery Brookline, Massachusetts
Icon by Photios Kontoglou

Dismissal Hymn of the Martyrs. First Tone
The soldiers standing guard

THE scarlet of your blood, shed for Christ's sake, O Martyrs, doth ornament the Church like fine linen and purple. The crimson seed of faith is sown with gen'rous hand. Lo, the rushings of this river make glad God's City and her enemies are thereby drowned in confusion. O Serbia, exult with joy!

Kontakion of the Martyrs. Fourth Tone
On this day Thou hast appeared

LIKE a firmament of stars brilliant with glory did these holy Martyrs shine amidst a nation most perverse. Let us beseech them with fervor now that they perserve us in Orthodox Piety.



OUR **†**HEOTOKOS PRAYING
FOR US